

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 AGRE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /092 W
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R 021606Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5175
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 03235

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GR, FR, EEC
SUBJECT: GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' VISIT TO
PARIS

REF: LONDON 1540

1. THE PRINCIPAL RESULT OF CARAMANLIS' LUNCH AT
ELYSEE DURING HIS BRIEF INFORMAL STOP JANUARY 28-30
WAS PUBLIC STATEMENT BY GISCARD SUPPORTING GREEK
MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY, PREDICTING THAT A
"POSITIVE" DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN IN BRUSSELS IN
1978 AND SUGGESTING THAT RATIFICATIONS IN 1979
WOULD PERMIT GREEK ENTRY BEFORE THE END OF THAT
YEAR. TEXT OF GISCARD'S STATEMENT, WHICH APPEARED
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IN LE MONDE JANUARY 31, BEING POUCHED INTERESTED
ADDRESSEES.

2. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS
BLOT CONFIRMED IN CONFIDENCE THAT FRENCH
STATEMENTS HAD NOT BEEN FORESEEN BY QUAI OR ELYSEE
BEFORE CARAMANLIS' ARRIVAL. LATTER MADE STRONG

PITCH, HOWEVER, FOR RENEWED FRENCH EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT TO OFFSET GROWING GREEK DOMESTIC IMPRESSION THAT DRIVE TO BRING GREECE INTO THE COMMUNITY HAD LOST MOMENTUM. QUAI IMPLIED CARAMANLIS ALSO HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETELY REASSURED IN LONDON THAT UK WOULD SUPPORT RAPID TIMETABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND ADHERENCE WHICH GREEKS WANT (REFTEL). AND HE PARTICULARLY WANTED FRENCH PUBLIC EXPRESSION AS PROP FOR HIS NEXT STOP IN BONN, SINCE GREEKS EXPECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH GERMANS ON AGRICULTURE AND WORKERS TO BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION WHETHER GISCARD'S STATEMENT MEANT THAT FRENCH HAD OVERCOME THEIR DEEP-SEATED CONCERNS OVER ENLARGEMENT AND HAD DROPPED THE IDEA OF "GLOBALIZING" THE GREEK, SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE ENTRY NEGOTIATIONS, BLOT ANSWERED THAT DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN ELYSEE'S "POLITICAL DETERMINATION" TO KEEP ITS COMMITMENTS TO GREECE AND TO PUSH FOR RAPID GREEK

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-----017677 030205Z /75

R 021606Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 03235

MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY AND THE MORE DOWN-TO-EARTH CONCERNS OF THE FRENCH BUREAUCRACY. GISCARD IS ADAMANT ON THE GREEK ADHERENCE AND DOESN'T WANT TO LINK GREECE WITH SPAIN OR PORTUGAL. HOWEVER, THE TECHNICAL NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING THOSE WITH THE FRENCH, WILL NO DOUBT BE HARD.

4. ONLY OTHER TOPIC DISCUSSED IN PARIS WAS GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS. BLOT SAID IN STRICT CONFIDENCE THAT CARAMANLIS SURPRISED FRENCH BY THE EXTENT OF HIS PESSIMISM WITH RESPECT TO ECEVIT WHOM HE STILL TENDS TO SEE AS MAIN AUTHOR OF TOUGH TURKISH POLICY ON CYPRUS AND AEGEAN. CARAMANLIS ALSO REITERATED HIS CONCERN THAT US SUBMISSION OF THE DCA TO CONGRESS IN RESPONSE TO TURKISH PROMISES WOULD ONLY FURTHER
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TILT THE POWER BALANCE IN THE AREA TOWARDS TURKEY, AND WOULD LEAVE ANKARA FREER THAN EVER TO KEEP OR NOT TO KEEP COMMITMENTS IT MAY HAVE MADE. CARAMANLIS HIMSELF IS NOT OPPOSED TO RECONCILIATION, INCLUDING A MEETING WITH ECEVIT; BUT INSISTS THAT SUCH A MEETING WOULD HAVE TO BE PRECEDED BY DETAILED PREPARATIONS. QUAI TOOK THIS TO MEAN CLEAR PRIOR UNDERSTANDINGS ON THE MAJOR ISSUES WAS REQUIREMENT.
HARTMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS03235
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780050-1015
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802101/aaaadhj.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49cacdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LONDON 1540
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3429778
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GREEK PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS' VISIT TO PARIS
TAGS: OVIP, GR, FR, EEC, (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49cacdcc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014